Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original)

Electrically conducting, magnetic powder (1) comprising or made of electrically conducting and magnetic particles (2).

2. (currently amended)

The powder according to claim 1,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the particles (2) are pre-magnetised so that they mutually attract.

3. (currently amended)

The powder according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the particles (2) have an average grain size which is smaller than 50 µm or smaller than 40 µm or smaller than 35 µm.

4. (currently amended)

The powder according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the particles (2) are constructed as substantially spherical.

5. (currently amended)

The powder according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the electrically conducting, magnetic particles (2) have an electrically conducting coated magnetic core (4).

6. (currently amended)
The powder according to claim 5,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein
the magnetic cores (4) consist of an electrically non-conducting material.

7. (currently amended)
The powder according to claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein
the magnetic cores (4) consist of ferrite.

8. (currently amended)
The powder according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 5 to 7~~,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein
the magnetic cores (4) are coated with carbon or with a metal.

9. (currently amended)
The powder according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein
the particles (2) are inserted in a carrier liquid (3) to form an electrically conducting, magnetic liquid (1').

10. (currently amended)
The powder according to claim 9,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein
the carrier liquid (3) is electrically non-conducting and/or non-magnetic.

11. (currently amended)
The powder according to claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the carrier liquid (3) is an oil.

12. (currently amended)

The powder according to claim 9 ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the carrier liquid (3) has a relatively high surface tension.

13. (currently amended)

The powder according to claim 9 ~~any one of claims 9 to 12~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the carrier liquid (3) is a non-migrating oil.

14. (currently amended)

Use of an electrically conducting, magnetic powder (1), especially according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, in an electrical component (6) for transferring an electrical signal and/or an electric voltage and/or an electric current between at least two electric contacts (12, 13).

15. (currently amended)

An electrical component, especially a switch or potentiometer (6),

- wherein the component (6) has at least two electrical contacts (12, 13),

- wherein the component (6) has a transfer volume (11) comprising an electrically conducting, magnetic powder (1), especially according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, or an electrically conducting, magnetic liquid (1'), ~~especially according to any one of claims 9 to 13~~, for transferring an electrical signal and/or an electric voltage and/or an electric current between two of the contacts (12, 13),

- wherein the component (6) has an actuating device (15) which, when actuated, displaces the transfer volume (11) by means of magnetic forces (14) relative to the contacts 12, 13).

16. (currently amended)
The component according to claim 15,
~~characterised in~~ wherein

- ~~that~~ the contacts (12, 13) and the transfer volume (11) are arranged in a casing (20),
- ~~that~~ the actuating device (15) is arranged outside on the casing (20) or outside the casing (20),
- ~~that~~ at least one wall (21) of the casing (20) is constructed as permeable for the magnetic forces (14) of the actuating device (15).

17. (currently amended)
The component according to claim 15~~ or claim 16~~,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein
the actuating device (15) has an actuator (16) which has at least one magnet (18) for generating the magnetic forces (14) and is displaceable along a pre-determined displacement path for the actuating volume (11) relative to the contacts (12, 13).

18. (currently amended)
The component according to claims 16~~ and 17~~,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein
the actuator (16) is displaceable along the casing (20) without contact.

19. (currently amended)
The component according to claim 15~~ or claim 16~~,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the actuating device (15) has a magnetic force generator which is constructed in the fashion of a linear motor, which extends along a pre-determined displacement path for the actuating volume (11) and is used to generate magnetic forces (14) which drive the actuating volume (11) along the displacement path.

20. (currently amended)

The component according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 19~~,

~~characterised in~~ wherein

- ~~that~~ the component is a potentiometer (6) whose collector track (13) and resistance track (12) respectively form a contact,
- ~~that~~ the collector track (13) and resistance track (12) are arranged adjacent to one another without contact,
- ~~that~~ the actuating volume (11) interconnects the collector track (13) and the resistance track (12),
- ~~that~~ the relative position of the transfer volume (11) along the collector track (13) and along the resistance track (12) can be adjusted with the actuating device (15).

21. (currently amended)

The component according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 20~~,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the component (6) is a member of the following group of components: potentiometer, sealed potentiometer, potentiometer with built-in switch, switch, sealed switch, limit switch, proximity switch, step switch, incremental encoder, absolute encoder, relay, sealed relay.

22. (currently amended)

Electrically conducting, magnetic liquid comprising a carrier liquid (3) containing a powder (1) according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~.